

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides a catalyst carrier holding member to be fitted into a gap between a catalyst carrier and a casing accommodating the catalyst carrier.

5 The catalyst carrier holding member includes a three-dimensional molded article having flexible inorganic fiber and an inorganic expansive admixture, if desired. The flexible inorganic fiber is bound together by a binder in a compression-deflected state. A surface in contact with the catalyst carrier is shaped substantially in conformity to the outer shape of the catalyst carrier, and a surface in contact with the casing is substantially in conformity to the inner shape of the casing. The catalyst carrier holding member has a thickness equal to or larger than the gap.

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